



Here beynneth a lytell treatyse  
called Ars moriendi.



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Here beynneth a lytell treatyse shorte  
ly compyled and called ars moriendi.  
that is to saye the craft for to deye for  
the helthe of mannes soule.

**W**han ony of lyklyhode shall deye/  
thenne is moost necessarpe to haue  
a specyall frende/the whiche wyll  
berthly helpe & praye for hym/and  
therwith counseyll the syke for the  
weele of his soule/& more ouer to  
se that all other so do about hym / or elles quychly  
for to make hym departe. ¶ Thenne is to be reme  
bried the grete benefaytes of god done for hym vn  
to that tyme/& specyally of the passyon of our lord  
& thenne is to be rede some storie of sayntes or the  
viij. psalmes with the letanye/of our lady sawter in  
parte or boole with other. And euer the ymage of  
the crucyfixe is to be had in his syght with other.  
And holy water is oftymes to be cast vpon & about  
hy for auoydynge of euyll spyrytes þ whiche theñe  
be full. redy to take theyr anaũtage of the soule yf  
they may. ¶ And thenne & euer make hym crye for  
mercy & grace and for the helpe of our blessyd lady  
& of other sayntes in whom afore he had a syngus  
ler trust & loue/& therupon to make his prayers yf  
he may. ¶ Whan deth cometh or ony greuous paine



ges/or other grete sykenes/thenne prayer or deuocy  
on allwageth / wherfore it is wysdome for one to  
praye afore any sykenesse come/and also whan one  
may in his sykenesse yf he wyll not be deceyued.  
¶ So he is happy & may be glad that sucche a tyme  
of moost nede hath a faythfull frende & þ he wyll  
saye belyde the prayers afore reherled & cause other  
also to saye deuouctly in remembraunce of the charyte  
of Ihesu Cryste & of his passyon/and for to haue  
the rather his mercy & helpe .iij. þt nt and .iij.  
Auees with a Credo/& therewith to exhorde hym by  
a prest or for nede by any other in the maner as it  
foloweth.

**B**Roder or sylster remembre well þ god sayth  
by his prophete & euangelyst. Blessyd be tho  
that deye & departe in our lordes/þ is to saye from  
the worlde & his pleasures/& deye in the true fayth  
of the churche & repentaunce for his synnes. ¶ Syr  
ye haue grete cause to be glad for to departe from  
this wretched worlde & fall of all mysery/& thynke  
that ye nedes must departe/& desyre herthy to be  
with Ihesu Cryste your maker/redemer/and lord  
god/for he shall geue to you now your enherytaunce  
that he dyde bye for you with his precyous passyon  
and blood/wherfore this tyme of your departinge  
shall be better to you than the tyme of your byrth/  
for now all sykenesse sorowe & trouble shall departe  
now from you for euer. Therfor be not agreued



with your sykenesse & take it not with grutchynge  
but take it rather by all gladnesse. ¶ Se at all ty-  
mes that ye be stable in your fayth & bylene / and  
saye your Credo yf that ye may or elles desyre an  
other hertly to doo it for you here afore vs openly.  
And arme you ever with the sygne of the crosse X  
as a crysten man for your defence apenst your ghos-  
tly enemyes / in þ which doyng / god wyll be gres-  
tly pleased & the rather take you for one of his fol-  
ke by protectyon & grace and as his childe of sal-  
uacyon. ¶ Haue ever a good & true bylene / and no  
chyng may be impossyble vnto you. And ever be-  
ware that ye falle not in dyspeyre for that gretely  
wolde dysplease god / & can not be remedyed. And  
remembre the synnes done afore tyme shall neuer  
hurt you as to dampnacyon / yf they please you not  
now & that ye be sory for them. ¶ Saynt Jerome  
sayth / yf one sholde take his sykenesse or his deeth  
with grutchynge / it is a token þ he loueth not god  
suffyciently / all is ryghtwysse that we suffre. ¶ De-  
syre with saynt Austen of our lord here to be cutte  
with tribulacyon & to be brenned with sekenesse &  
sorowe / so that ye may be saued herafter for ever.  
¶ Now meke your selfe & be sory that ye haue ben  
so unkynde to please & to kepe his comaundementes  
& presume not as of your self ony goodnesse / and  
saye with all mekenes thus. ¶ Good lord Ihesu  
Cryste I knowleche that I haue synned greuously /  
and by thy grace I wyll gladdely amende me yf I

Sholde lyue/haue mercy now of me for thy bitter  
passyon. ¶ Than aske hym thyle questyons folow  
ynge afore his dech.

**B**E ye glad that ye shall depe in crysten byles  
ue. Lete hym answere/ye/knowe ye that ye  
haue not so wel lyued as ye sholde/ye/haue ye wyl  
to amende yf that ye sholde lyue/ye/byleue ye that  
Jhesu Cryste goddes lone of heuen was born of the  
blessyd virgyn Marye/ye/byleue ye also that Jhesu  
Criste deyed vpon the crosse to bye mannes soule  
on good frydaye/ye/do ye thanke god therfore/ye/  
Byleue ye that ye may not be saued but by his pas  
syon & dech/ye/ ¶ As longe as the soule is in your  
body thanke god for his dech/and haue a sure trust  
by it & his passyon to be saued. And counseyll hym  
to saye yf that he may thyle folowynge wordes of  
grete vertue.

**I**Put Cristis passyon betwix me & myn euyl  
werkes/and betwix me & his wreache. Now  
lorde god be mercyful to me a synner. ¶ The peas  
se of our lorde Jhesu Cryste and the vertue of his  
passyon with the sygne of the holy crosse & and the  
vndefolped virgynpte of the blessyd Mary his mo  
der/and the blessinge of all sayntes/& the protecty  
on of all holy angels with the helpe & prayer of all  
sayntes be betwix me & all myn enemyes now and  
in the houre of my dech & departynge Amen.  
¶ Also thyle verses folowynge be of grete vertue

In the tyme of deeth / & to be sayd of the syke yf he  
 may or by any other for hym. *Dilrupisti dñe vincu  
 la mea tibi sacrificabo hostiã laudis. et nomen dñi  
 innocabo. Deus ppicius esto michi peccatori. Dñe  
 ihu xpe ego cognosco me grauit̃er peccasse. et libens  
 ter volo me emendare per grām tuā. Miserere mei  
 ppter amarā passionē tuā. Dñe ihu redemisti nos  
 in sanguine tuo. laus sit tibi p amara passione tua  
 Largire clarū vesp̃e. quo ṽita nulq̃ decidat. sed pres  
 miū mortis sacre perennis instet gloria.* ¶ Also to  
 our Lady. *Maria plena gracie mater misericordie.  
 tu nos ab hoste protege. et in hora mortis suscipe.  
 And at laste. In manus tuas dñe cōmendo spiritū  
 meū. In noie patris et filij ⁊ spiritus sancti Amen*

¶ Here foloweth a shorte & swete remembraūce of  
 the sacrament of þ̃ awter or þ̃ if he receyued of the  
 syke persone or of ony other afore ther comunynge

**W**elcome blessyd Jhu my lorde god & saupour  
 to whom is aporpyed all mercy & pyte. Re  
 member good lorde how freyll my nature and sub  
 staūce is / and haue mercy & pyte on me grete syn  
 ner / after thy grete mercyes & for thy bytter passyon  
 for I knowleche and byleue fapchfully as a crysten  
 childe of thyn / that thou here in fourme of brede  
 is the same my lorde god that of thy goodnesse co  
 me downe from heuen & was born and toke my na  
 ture of the blessyd virgyne Mary / & deyed for me



and rose the thyrde daye & after ascended in to heu-  
en / and there reygnech with the fader & the holy  
ghost & all sayntes for euer Immortall the whiche  
for our grete helthe freylte & dayly transgressyon &  
in remembraunce of thy grete loue & passyon haste  
ordeyned this thy blessyd body in this wyse to be ta-  
ken of me and of all other wyllynge to be saued .  
**I** knowe well that I am ferre vnworthy to be  
called thy childe or seruaunt for the grete multitude  
of my synnes / how be it þ mayste make me ryght  
full & able the whiche oonly of synners hast made  
grete sayntes of heuen. By the thy grete power and  
myght graunte me now to take the mekely in all fe-  
re & in waylynge for my synnes & with spyrituall  
gladnes. Come now good lord in to my herte and  
cense it of all synne / entre in to my soule & make  
it hole / & therewith sanctyfye me within & without /  
and be my defence for body & soule rebuynge and  
puttynge a lyde all myn enemyes ferre from the pre-  
sence of thy power / that I thenne so defended by the  
may haue a free and sure passage to thy kyngdom  
where I shall not se the in this foume by my self  
but I shall se the face to face whete I shall neuer  
hungre ne thurst / but euer be in Joye with the and  
thyne / there to glorefye the & to worshyp þ to laude  
& to prayle the worlde withouten ende Amen.

**B**y thyle folowynge areyn benyall synnes taken  
awaye yf they be done deuoutly.

**T**akynge holy water holy brede/also by say-  
 enge of the Pat<sup>r</sup> n<sup>r</sup>/and spyrtyually for this  
 clause & petycyon. Dimitte nobis debita nostra sis  
 tut et nos dimittim<sup>9</sup> debitoribz nostris. ¶ And also  
 by knockynge of the brest for ones synnes and also  
 for sayenge of De<sup>9</sup> ppia<sup>9</sup> esto michi pccōri/and by  
 sayenge the comyn Confyteor at masse or at other  
 tyme. Also by recepyng of ony of the sacramentz  
 of the churche/& specially of the body of our lorde.  
 Also by hearyng of masse/& by the syght of the sa-  
 crament of the awter there or elles where. By the  
 blessinge of a bysshop or of a p<sup>r</sup>este at his masse.  
 By ony of the dedes of mercy/by pardons/by mar-  
 tyrdom/& penaunce/by forgeuenes to a trespasour/  
 by good ensample geuyng or for conuertynge of  
 othe<sup>r</sup> to good lyf/by payence thankyng in trou-  
 ble/& by contricyon of synnes with dyspleasur of  
 hem. And for euery good dede doyng with good  
 intent & deuocyon Amen.

¶ The famous doctour John Gerson Chaūseler  
 of Parys takynge his grounde of holy scrypture &  
 accordynge with holy doctours sayth thus.

**O**ure moost mercyfull fader lorde god / kno-  
 wyng our freylte & redynesse to al synne/is  
 euer redy durynge this wretchyd & mortall lyfe by  
 many & dyuerse wayes to forgeue vs euer our tresp-  
 pace & to graūt and geue vs his grace/ys so be that

truly we do ordeyne vnto hym thyle .iij. vertues to  
lowynge soo that they be sayd & done with all the  
herte deuoutly. The fyrste is that thou shalt saye.  
Blessyd lord I knowleche that I haue synned gre-  
uouusly apenst thy goodnesse thus & thus reherlynge  
thy synnes / & I am dyspleased therwith by reason  
of the whiche I do penaunce & wyll do / for I knowe  
well that I haue greued the mercyfull lord & bros-  
ken thy comaundementes in the whiche thou oonly  
ought to be worshypped. The seconde / saye this.  
Good lord I haue a good purpose & delyre with  
thy helpe to be ryght ware hereafter that I falle not  
in to synne / & I entende to flee the occalyons after  
the possybyltye of my power. The thyrde is this.  
Gracyous lord I haue good wyll to make an ho-  
le confellyon of all my synnes / whan place & tyme  
couenyent may be had accordynge to thy comaundes-  
ment & al holy chirche. Thyle .iij. verities or trew-  
thes who so euer sayth with his herte vnfaynngly  
in what place & euer he be / he may be sure & he is in  
the state of grace & saluacion & & he shall haue euer  
lastynge lyf though all he had done all the synnes  
of the worlde. And yf he decessed without any other  
confellyon for lack of a preest as slepyng or soden-  
ly dech / he sholde be saue suffryng afore harde pay-  
ne in purgatory / wherfore it is good coulept & euery  
crysten man oues or wyues on & dawe erly or late or  
elles at lest on holy dayes examen his conscience / &  
remembre yf & he may with al his hert vnfaynngly



this sayd .iij. trewthes / & yf he can so do / he may be  
sure h̄ he is in the state of grace / & yf he may not /  
but is in wyll to synne agayn / & to haue his delecta  
cion w̄ dede / & wyll not flee the occalyons of mortal  
synes / & so drowned in synne wyll not aryse / luche  
one may be certeyne h̄ the pope may not alloyle h̄  
not for thy good it is h̄ luche one vse moche prayer &  
geue almesse & do other good dedes after theyr pos  
wer / that god the rather may lyghten theyr hertes  
& the looner torne to goodnesse Amen.

¶ Here foloweth a synguler prayer to be sayd in  
the fest of the dedycacyon of any churche or at any  
other tyme.

**O** Myghtyfull & moost pyteuous lord god Jhe  
su Cryst whiche of thy grete goodnesse hath  
ordeyned all thynges that ben in heuen and in er  
the for the vse and weele of man / to the entente &  
ende that they shall serue hym / and he the allone.  
And how be it that in eche place thou ought to be  
serued and worshypped / yet it pleaseyth the moche  
more luche seruyce and prayer in a place or churche  
that is dedyged / enueyled and halowed by a bys  
shop and his mynystres with ympnes / psalmes /  
and letanyes / and other suffragyes with theyr  
mysteryall obseruaunces ordeyned therfore / and  
for by cause thy precyous body and blood is thes  
re dayly offred vp vnto thy fader in heuen in knos

wleche of thy grete loue & passyon that thou hadst  
dest for man. ¶ And yf it pleased the in the olde tes  
tament with thyn angels nyght & daye to be assy  
stent & to here the prayers of thy seruauntes in the  
temple/where was but fleshe & blood of vnreasona  
ble beestes offred in sacrefyce/moche more we truste  
that thou wylt vplyte & be assystent to vs nyght &  
daye with thyn angels in this thy newe temple and  
chirche/where thyn owne body & very blood dayly  
is offred vp vnto thy fader of heuen/& therewith res  
ceyued accordynge to thy desyre & wyll of vs thy ser  
uauntes though synners for our saluacyon & therto  
here the prayers of vs & other that entende to loue  
worshyp & thanke the in the best maner we can or  
may. ¶ Now thenne blessyd lord full of all mercy  
& pyte/that wyll that we calle vpon the & hath pro  
myled to here the prayers of thy seruauntes graunte  
now & at all tymes to vs and to all other of thy lvs  
perhabundant mercy & grace/that who so euer co  
me vnto this chirche or to ony other with deuocōn  
& praye in what caas that euer they be/prosperyte  
temptacyon/trouble/or aduersyte/that theyr petys  
cyon behouefull & necessary prayer may be herde/&  
that the pardone graunted to them may in her sou  
les & bodyes with all other thynges apperteynyng  
vnto them may take effect in euery parte graciously.  
¶ And ouer this graunte vs of thy pyte/peale &  
accorde in thy chirche & realme/and to our founders  
faders & moders/frendes/benefactours/and to all

crysten soules / forgeuenes of theyr synnes with res-  
lette of theyr paynes & Joye perpetuel. And fynally  
we desyre of thy bounteuous goodnesse seasonable  
weder with fruytes & to exclude from vs pestylence  
hungre moreyne & lekenesse and all enemyes gho-  
stly & bodely and therwith graunte vs of thy grace  
good lyf & endelesse blyss. Amen.

¶ Here folowen the .xij. degrees of humylyte.

¶ Caste thy syght donewarde / & shewe mekenesse  
bothe in thy herte & body.

¶ Beware of hyghe speche & clamorous / & se that  
thy wordes be fewe / well sette / & reasonable.

¶ Be not lyght for to laughe / but vse cuer sadnesse

¶ Be stille & hepe splenice / to nede requyre that an  
swere muste be hadde.

¶ Keepe well the comyn rule as the holy place hath  
vled.

¶ Thinke the moost vylest of all other & soo pro-  
nounce thy selfe.

¶ Knowleche the vnworthy & not prouffitable to  
ony thyng / & so byleue in dede.

¶ Make ofte confellyon of thy synnes / & that with  
grete contricyon.

¶ Keepe pacyence in thyn obedyence / at all thy pay-  
nes & trouble.

¶ To all people be þ subget for thy maysters sake

¶ Thyn owne wyl forlake it / & loue it in no wyse



**¶** And euer kepe the from synne for feare of hym  
aboue.

**¶ The. vii. degrees of obedience.**

**¶** The fyrste is to do that is comaunded of thy so-  
uerayne without grutchynge.

**¶** The seconde is to make none exceptiō/neyther  
of the tyme neyther of the dede þ is to be done.

**¶** The thyrde is to be glad & cherefull in thy herte  
to do suche dedes comaunded without ony compul-  
sion lettynge a lyde all bestly condycions.

**¶** The. iiij. is to be quicke in suche dede doyng le-  
uynge all other occupacions for that tyme or ony  
maner of excuse.

**¶** The .v. is to do suche thynges w<sup>th</sup> all thy myght  
& power/thynkynge þ thy rewarde shal be grete.

**¶** The .vi. is to doo hem also w<sup>th</sup> all mekenesse  
bothe in spyrte & gesture.

**¶** The. vii. is to contynue suche obedience to them-  
de of thy lyf euer folowynge thy mayster Ihu crist  
that was made obedyent for thy synne vnto dech.

**¶ The. xij. degrees of pacyence.**

**¶** The. xij. degrees of pacyence thou mayst beholde  
here.

**¶** To euyl done to the or aduersyte make noo res-  
sistence.

**D**o not euill for euill ne geue an euill answere  
**L**oue thyn enemye & do good for euill to hym in  
recompence.

**G**rutche not agaynst aduersyte / but take it as  
swete encence.

**A**ccompte it for best medycyne / and be gladd in  
thy payne.

**T**hanke god therfore / and loke for more with  
all benynolence.

**A**nd whan þu hast no grutchynge in thyle thenne  
mayst thou be fayne.

### **T**he .xv. degrees of charyte.

**T**hyle make perfyte charyte after Pouls epystle

**B**e pacence contynuell for ony aduersyte.

**L**yberall to the neddy / and good do for euill.

**O**f other mennes welfare enuye not ne by heuy

**L**ete not by thy crokednesse good werkes to mul-  
typlye.

**S**welle not Inwarde by malyce yf thy neygh-  
bour prospere.

**L**oue to be in lowe degree & lothe to be hyghe.

**T**o labour for other as thy self do thy vtter des-  
uoyre.

**B**e not moeuyd for ony cause to vengeaunce or  
to Ire.

**T**hynke none euill to any other for ony prouoca-  
cyon.

**I**oye thou not in wyckednesse but sorowe thou  
rather.

**B**e gladd in trouthe & ryghtwysnesse and hate  
synnulacon.

**F**or suche ryght here aduersyte or ony tribulacō

**T**o þe churche techeth the put full credulyte.

**T**hat god hath promysed truste it well without  
defallacō.

**I**n hope abydynge his rewarde and everlastyn  
ge gloure. Amen.

**T**here endeth a lytell treatyse called ars moriendi  
Enprynted at Westmynstre by Wynken de worde.





